

# **ODHH Monthly Bulletin**

March 2012

### A Message from Director Lisa Kornberg

Thank you to all who showed up for our 3rd Annual Legislative Awareness Day. Maintaining our presence in Annapolis is important and we believe that helping the deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind community to better self-advocate is the best way to ensure that the needs of the community are heard by and met by our legislators.

While we have highlighted several important bills below, ODHH is continuing to monitor a number of other bills - from ensuring that the installation of new CO2 monitors will include a visual alert to the enforcement of the inclusion of captioning for on-line learning programs.

This legislative session has been active and your support has been important. However, it is not the same without our Assistant Director who is working hard on recovering. Please keep Julie in your thoughts and continue to know that we are all here to provide you support and address issues that are of importance to you in Annapolis.

### In This Issue

Wrap-Up: ODHH 3rd Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislative Awareness
Day

Maryland Legislative Session: ODHH Legislative Updates

Spotlight On: Summer 2012 Convention Season

Wrap-Up:
ODHH 3rd Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Legislative Awareness Day



### March is American Red Cross Month

This is the time to remind everyone of the work of the American Red Cross in communities across the country and around the globe - and how we depend on public support to help people in need.

Visit your local Chapter Website to find out what's happening in your area!

Maryland Chapters & Websites:

American Red Cross, Southern
Maryland

American Red Cross, Central Maryland (Baltimore)

American Red Cross, Frederick
Community

American Red Cross, Lower Shore

American Red Cross, Washington
County



On February 20, ODHH hosted its Third Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislative Awareness Day. Over 95 people registered and there were at least a dozen walk-ins for the day's events, which started with an Advocacy Training Presentation to help familiarize participants with the legislative process. The training was augmented by an open-captioned, informative video provided by the Department of Legislative Services.

The highlight of the event was the Welcome Ceremony and Awards Presentation, with keynote remarks by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. During the Awards Presentation, ODHH recognized two Delegates and one Senator who have contributed to and supported the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind communities in the State of Maryland. Certificates of Gratitude were presented to Delegate Patrick Hogan, Delegate Kirill Reznik, and Senator Nancy King. Shane Feldman received the Second Annual Kelby Brick Community Leadership Award for his active participation on the ODHH Advisory Council and his tremendous efforts in working with the Maryland Department of Transportation to improve access at the Baltimore-Washington Airport and other public transportation.

After the Presentation, the constituents in attendance were provided the opportunity to meet individually with their legislators. Wrapping up the day's activities, seats had been reserved in the House Chamber Gallery for the General Session. During this session the deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind communities were formally recognized. We wish to thank all the legislators, volunteers, and participants who made the success of this event possible. We look forward to seeing you next year at our Fourth Annual Legislative Day!

Maryland Legislative Session: ODHH Legislative Updates

We are midway through the 2012 Legislative Session. As we carefully monitor new legislation, our goal is to keep you informed of the bills

### American Red Cross, Western Potomac

# Gallaudet 5K Walk/Run for NAD Youth

The Kappa Gamma Fraternity will host the first Gallaudet 5K, a charity event benefiting National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Youth Leadership Programs on Saturday, April 7th. Everyone is welcome to participate in the Gallaudet 5K by walking or running a course that winds through the picturesque Gallaudet University campus.

Gallaudet University, Kendall Green Saturday April 7th at 9 am

Registration:

http://kappagamma.com/events/5k/

Quick Links

**ODHH Website** 



**Contact Us** 

Maryland.gov

Join Our Mailing List!

we are reviewing and the possible impact each new bill may have on the deaf, deaf-blind, and hard of hearing communities.

# State Government - Human Relations - Discrimination in Housing, Employment, and Places of Public Accommodations (HB 183/SB187)

House Bill 183/Senate Bill 187 prohibits internet discrimination via identifies the internet as a place of public accommodation. This legislation has received an unfavorable report in the Health and Government Operations Committee, but hasn't been withdrawn. The Senatorial Judiciary Proceeding Committee (SB187) heard testimony on this bill on February 15th, but no further recommendations have been made.

### Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library (HB390/SB571)

House Bill 390/Senate Bill 571 would require the Division of Library Development and Services in the State Department of Education to establish and coordinate the Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library. The Ways and Means Committee in the House heard testimony on the bill on February 16th and has yet to make a recommendation. The Senate has scheduled a hearing for March 1, 2012.

### Vehicles Law - Distracted Driving - Prohibition (HB552)

House Bill 552 prohibits a person from driving a motor vehicle in an inattentive manner resulting in the unsafe operation of the motor vehicle when the inattention is caused by the driver engaging in specified preoccupying activities. ODHH has asked that the use of American Sign Language be exempted as a "distracting activity". The hearing was held on February 28th, at 1:00pm in the House Environmental Committee and no recommendations have been made. The Senate has not yet introduced this bill.

### Spotlight On:

Summer 2012 Convention Season

### **NAD National Conference 2012**

This year the National Association of the Deaf is hosting their 51st Biennial Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The NAD Conference is partnering with the Kentucky Deaf Festival. The theme of this year's conference is "Nothing About Us, Without Us!"

NAD 51st Biennial Conference
Louisville, KY
July 3-7, 2012

Details and Registration: <a href="http://nad.org/louisville">http://nad.org/louisville</a>

### Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) Convention 2012

With Convention 2012 just around the corner, take time to make plans to attend the largest educational program and trade show for people with hearing loss. All workshops, plenary sessions, exhibit hall, and social events will take place at the Rhode Island Convention Center which is connected by sky bridge to The Westin Providence. Located in the heart of downtown Providence, you'll find plenty of

restaurants, shopping, and points of interest. Start planning your trip to New England by reading <u>about Providence</u>.

For More Information: <a href="http://www.shhh.org/content/convention">http://www.shhh.org/content/convention</a>

#### **AG Bell 2012 Convention**

#### Convention Highlights:

- Keynote address by Dr. Dale Atkins, a psychologist, former teacher of the deaf, author and frequent contributor to NBC-TV's "Today Show" whose focus is on living a balanced life
- 80+ education sessions for professionals, families and adults with hearing loss
- Parent programs and networking opportunities
- · Children's program
- NIH-funded Research Symposium
- Exhibit hall with the latest technology and education information
- · Exciting social events for all ages
- CEU opportunities

For More Information and Registration: http://nc.agbell.org/page.aspx?pid=1338\_

#### **Questions? Comments? Contact:**

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